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OCT 25 2006

--- PLEASE PASS TO EXAMINER TRI M. MAI ---

Re: Application 10/724,653

Dear Examiner Mai,

As you know, we are preparing our Appeal Brief for submittal shortly. In doing this, we would briefly appreciate your help in resolving one question:

In your Final Action mailed 6JUN06, you noted objections to Claims 14-22 which would be overcome by rewriting them into independent form. This rewriting was done and was submitted by request as Amendment B mailed on 5SEP06. Having complied with your requirements, we expected that Claim 13 (from which 14-22 depend) would be cancelled and the re-written independent claim set 26-34 would be in condition for allowance.

But in your pre-Appeal Brief Advisory Action mailed 26SEP06, you stated that this amendment was not entered because these new (re-written) claims 27-34 raise new issues.

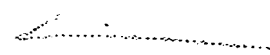
As Claims 26-34 have been written to simply include all the limitations of base Claim 13 as well as those of all intervening claims, we do not understand what new issues have been raised, nor why this amendment was not accepted

Please reply to help us understand whether or not Claim 13 should be considered under Appeal or whether Claim 13 may be considered cancelled and Claims 26-34 are in fact allowable.

You may reach me by telephone today at 207-929-4840 any time before 2:00 PM eastern time, or by FAX at 207-929-4165, or by e-mail at:

<n.p.mickelson@ieee.org>

Thank you for your prompt assistance,


Nils Peter Mickelson
Reg. Nr. 40,089